

SOUTHERN FOREST PEST REPORTER

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY
SOUTHEASTERN AREA
DIVISION OF FOREST INSECT
AND DISEASE CONTROL

ZONE OFFICES
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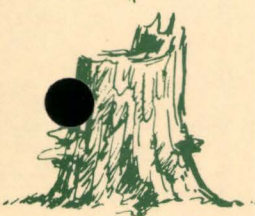
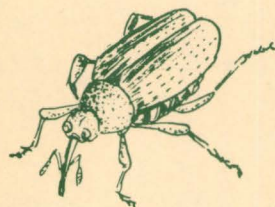
Number 2

50 SEVENTH ST. N.E. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

June 1967

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

- ... Epidemic southern pine beetle conditions are confined to the southwest part of the area in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Extension of southern pine beetle into the Yellowpine District of the Sabine National Forest in Texas and to the south and east in Louisiana, into East Baton Rouge and St. Helena Parishes, has been observed. Losses are expected to exceed any of those experienced in the last few years of the current outbreak.
- ... Ips engraver beetles are building up following windstorms and tornados in Kentucky, South Carolina and Texas.
- ... Defoliation by the forest tent caterpillar is down in Alabama but has increased in localized areas in Louisiana.
- ... Polyporus tomentosus has been found as the cause of extensive butt rot of shortleaf pine in Arkansas. This infection on shortleaf is not associated with fusiform cankers as reported in other areas in the southeast.
- ... A Comandra blister rust survey of the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee revealed the rust present in 5 counties.



STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.

ALABAMA A survey of the Bankhead National Forest in March failed to show any southern pine beetle activity. At the present scattered single and small multiple tree infestations are being reported on the Bankhead District. Control is being accomplished by salvage and chemical control.

Infestations of southern pine beetle continue on the Shoal Creek, Talladega, Oakmulgee, and Tuscaloosa Districts of the Talladega National Forest.

Infestations on private land in Jefferson, Walker, Blount, Shelby, Clarke and St. Clair Counties continue to occur. Salvage and chemical control is being continued by some landowners.

GEORGIA Only scattered endemic populations are present in Georgia at the present time. Surveys are scheduled for July.

LOUISIANA A survey of beetle infestations in southwest Louisiana by the Division of Forest Insect and Disease Control in March 1967 showed approximately seven infested trees per 1,000 acres of pine type. Populations are expected to increase to epidemic proportions this summer. Infestations of the beetle are spreading to the south and east into East Baton Rouge and St. Helena Parishes.

Division of Forest Insect and Disease Control surveys in March showed 1.8 trees per 1,000 acres in Calcasieu Parish and 2.4 infested trees per 1,000 acres in Allen Parish. Increased beetle activity is also expected in these two parishes later in the summer.

MISSISSIPPI A survey in April showed 6.29 infested trees per 1,000 acres on the Homochitto National Forest. This figure is slightly higher than found in April 1966. Populations are expected to increase rapidly this summer.

A survey on private land in southwest Mississippi showed approximately eight infested trees per 1,000 acres and 21 infested trees per 1,000 acres of pine type. A serious outbreak is expected this summer.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

- NORTH CAROLINA Infestations are currently confined to the Piedmont area of the State and activity appears to be at a slightly lower level than in 1966. Surveys made in February and March showed an increase only in Rowan County. Salvage and spray operations are continuing in all outbreak areas (North Carolina Division of Forestry).
- SOUTH CAROLINA Activity has declined to a very low level on the Andrew Pickens District of the Sumter National Forest. Chemical control has been temporarily terminated due to lack of beetle activity.
- Infestations are continuing at a moderate level on the Francis Marion National Forest. Vigorous salvage and chemical control efforts are minimizing losses. A total of 652 activity infested trees were treated with chemicals and 117.8 MBF of infested material was salvaged during March and April.
- TENNESSEE Infestations are continuing at a low level on the Oak Ridge AEC Reservation.
- TEXAS Beetle populations in Texas have developed early and are continuing at an accelerated rate. Losses are expected to exceed any of those experienced in the last few years of the current outbreak. Landowners have been alerted. Spots detected as of June 7 totalled 1730. Control reports were lacking on 777 of these spots on that date. Trees controlled in 608 southern pine beetle spots totalled 23,384. (Texas Forest Service).
- The southern pine beetle was first discovered on the Yellowpine District of the Sabine National Forest in 1966. Early in June, 1967 an aggressive outbreak of southern pine beetle was reported on the Yellowpine District. A vigorous control effort is in progress.
- VIRGINIA The major problem insect of the past three years - the southern pine beetle - appears to be at a relatively low level throughout the State following the usual mortality of overwintering broods and near normal rainfall this past winter and spring. (Virginia Division of Forestry).

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE. Dendroctonus terebrans (Oliver)

- ARKANSAS Activity is on the increase at seasonal levels. Single trees in southern Arkansas counties were observed that showed signs of current attack. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report).
- KENTUCKY Localized infestations are occurring on a proposed recreation site on the London District of the Daniel Boone National Forest.
- NORTH CAROLINA Infestations of black turpentine beetle were reported from the Moores Creek National Military Park in eastern North Carolina.
- TEXAS Beetle activity on seed tree areas in Trinity County where a K-G blade was used is especially high. Most of the remaining seed trees have 2 to 20 attacks. A recent logging operation in San Jacinto County resulted in the treatment of 900 trees bordering the area.
- AREA In the remainder of the area black turpentine beetle activity is normal for this season of the year in logging, stumping and naval stores areas.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLE, Ips sp.

- ARKANSAS A seasonal increase in activity was noted in the extreme southern end of the State. Some trees are dying due to attack late in the fall. Some salvage of trees is being carried out (Arkansas Forest Pest Report).
- KENTUCKY A severe storm, caused windthrow over approximately 11,000 acres of pine forest on the Stearns and Williamsburg Districts of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The engraver beetles, Ips grandicollis (Eichh.) and Ips Avulsus (Eichh.) invaded the damaged material. An intensive salvage program was initiated by the forest and should prevent a buildup of Ips activity and consequent invasion of residual trees.
- NORTH CAROLINA A spot of 150 pond pines infested by I. grandicollis was reported from the Croatan National Forest. An aerial survey of the forest indicated that this was a localized infestation.
- SOUTH CAROLINA Windstorms in early March caused localized windthrow on the Witherbee District of the Francis Marion National Forest and subsequent invasion by I. grandicollis and I. avulsus.

TEXAS Tornado damaged timber is heavily attacked by Ips on the Tenaha Ranger District. Downed timber is estimated at over 100 MBF.

SEED AND CONE INSECTS

ARKANSAS Two shortleaf pine seed production areas on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests were sprayed again this year. Dioryctria and Laspeyresia spp. damage will be evaluated at the time of cone collection. An unidentified Laspeyresia, reared in the laboratory from shortleaf cones collected in 1965, emerged in late May.

LOUISIANA Emergence of Laspeyresia Ingens from longleaf and slash pine occurred in mid-May. Prepupae were found in late April. A heavy longleaf pine cone crop will be evaluated in August to determine the impact of insect damage and the feasibility of cone collection.

NORTH CAROLINA The white pine cone beetle, Conophthorus coniperda (Sz.) is currently attacking up to 60% of this year's eastern white pine cone crop in the Ellicott Rock Seed Production Area on the Highland District of the Nantahala National Forest. An almost complete loss of the 1967 cone crop is anticipated.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR, Malacosoma disstria Hbn.

ALABAMA Defoliation of tupelo, sweetgum and oaks by the forest tent caterpillar, in the Mobile River Basin in Baldwin County has decreased from 20,800 acres in 1966 to 13,000 acres this year. However, the infestation has spread north and south and light feeding not visible from the air appeared much more widespread.

FLORIDA Defoliation of water and turkey oaks by this insect has occurred in west-central Florida. Defoliation was scattered over a 5-county area.

LOUISIANA Build-up of populations again occurred in an area north of Krotz Springs, Louisiana. Over 86,000 acres suffered heavy defoliation (60-100 percent), 37,000 acres moderate defoliation (25-60 percent), and 51,000 acres light defoliation (25 percent or less). Sweet gum and black willow were the species most severely defoliated.

PINE SAWFLIES (*Neodiprion* sp.)

- ARKANSAS Infestation of the loblolly pine sawfly, *Neodiprion taeda linearis*, were light this year. However, increased activity was noted in northern Ashley County. The most severe defoliation in south Arkansas was observed in a seed tree area between Hampton and Thornton. A small tract of pine in Randall County was treated to control a localized outbreak. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report).
- KENTUCKY Infestations by the Virginia pine sawfly, *Neodiprion pratti pratti* continue to occur on scattered pines and pine plantations on the Morehead District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Some mortality of overmature pine is occurring. Dying trees are being salvaged by the Forest. A number of sawfly colonies in the Morehead area exhibited typical symptoms of virus infection. Specimens have been submitted to the Forest Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon for analysis.
- LOUISIANA The area around Georgetown, Louisiana experienced light defoliation from loblolly pine sawfly. Populations appear to be at a lower level than in 1966.
- The red-headed pine sawfly, *Neodiprion lecontei* was reported defoliating longleaf and slash pine on the Kisatchie National Forest in Rapides Parish, and longleaf pine on private land in Vernon Parish.

PALES WEEVIL, *Hylobius pales* (Hbst.)

- NORTH CAROLINA A pilot project was undertaken in 1966 in southeastern North Carolina by the North Carolina Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service to evaluate DDT as a control method for the pales weevil. The treatment involved spraying seedlings in the nursery with a 5% DDT spray and applying granular DDT to the soil at the rate of 1 pound per acre after planting. The results of this two-phase program were very good in areas supporting extremely high weevil populations (North Carolina Division of Forestry).

HARDWOOD DEFOLIATORS

- KENTUCKY A statewide survey for defoliation by eastern tent caterpillar, Malacosoma Americanum (F.), revealed moderate to heavy defoliation in the north-central and northeastern portions of Kentucky. Defoliation was light over the remainder of the State.
- LOUISIANA A one-year old cottonwood plantation in Rapides Parish suffered heavy damage from the cottonwood leaf beetle (Chrysomela scripta) this spring. Some trees were completely defoliated. The cottonwood leaf beetle also defoliated cottonwood at the Louisiana Forestry Commission nursery at Columbia this year.
- VIRGINIA The scarlet oak leaf tier, Croesia semipurpurana (Kft.) is in epidemic status for the third consecutive year over portions of the James River District of the George Washington National Forest. Heaviest defoliation occurred in Dolly Ann Hollow and Rumsey Mines areas where considerable scarlet oak mortality has already occurred.
- A hardwood defoliating geometrid, Phigalea titea (Cramer) which has been epidemic in the vicinity of Short Mountain on the Lee District of the George Washington National Forest since 1961, collapsed in 1967.
- The fall cankerworm, Alsophila pometaria (Harr.) is again active in the vicinity of Sunset Fields on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Light to moderate defoliation is anticipated.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

- ALABAMA The locust leaf miner, Xenochalepus dorsalis (Thumb.) has been reported on black locust in several counties in central Alabama.
- The elm leaf beetle, Galerucella xanthomelaena (Schr.) is widespread and causing light damage to elm trees in Lee, Chilton and other central Alabama counties.
- FLORIDA Scattered defoliation caused by tussock moths, Hemerocampa leucostigma (A & S) has occurred in five west-central Florida counties.

GEORGIA Pine colaspis beetles, Colaspis pini Barber, are causing considerable damage to a plantation in Wayne County.

VIRGINIA Mortality of eastern hemlock is continuing on the Broadway District of the George Washington National Forest. Heavy infestations of the hemlock borer, Melanophila fulvoguttata (Harr.) are associated with this mortality.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

ANNOSUS ROOT ROT, Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cke.

LOUISIANA The F. annosus survey of the Caney Ranger District, Kisatchie National Forest, shows that mortality due to the disease ranges from about 0.1 to 1.5 trees per acre. Mortality has not yet reached too high a level. Although the mortality is quite extensive in some localized areas, it is almost non-existent in others.

NORTH CAROLINA Annosus root rot was detected in two separate locations in the vicinity of the Beech Creek Seed Orchard near Murphy, North Carolina.

RED ROOT AND BUTT ROT (Polyporus tomentosus Fr.)

ARKANSAS The causal agent of red root and butt rot, P. tomentosus, has been identified as the fungus causing extensive heart rot and degrade of shortleaf pine (Pinus echinata) on the Fourche Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest. The degrade was first reported in the Southern Forest Pest Reporter in February 1965. This is the first known occurrence of P. tomentosus on southern pine not associated with fusiform cankers. Fruiting bodies have not yet been found on the District.

RED BROWN BUTT ROT, Polyporus schweinitzii Fr.

VIRGINIA Red brown butt rot was detected in two proposed eastern white pine seed production areas on the George Washington National Forest.

COMANDRA BLISTER RUST, Cronartium comandrae Pk.

ARKANSAS New infections of C. comandrae are decreasing in the originally infected stand on the Buffalo Ranger District, Ozark National

Forest. New infections are increasing in the general area where hardwood stands have been converted to shortleaf pine. Infection is expected to continue to increase as more areas are converted to pine.

TENNESSEE A survey to determine the distribution and intensity of comandra blister rust was conducted over a 20-county area in the Cumberland Plateau of eastern Tennessee where the rust was first discovered in 1951. Sixty loblolly pine plantations were sampled. Survey results indicated that comandra rust was present in four counties, Bledsoe, Cumberland, Sequatchie and Van Buren. Forty percent of the plantations in these counties had infection which ranged from a trace (less than 1%) to 19%. Additional observations around the periphery of the Cumberland Plateau revealed an infection center in Coffee County.

LOBLOLLY PINE DIE-OFF (Cause Unknown)

ALABAMA Growth rate of loblolly pine affected with die-off in Bibb and Perry Counties, Alabama, decreased rapidly after the trees reached 40-50 years of age. Mortality, however, has been very slight among the several hundred trees evaluated the past two years.

LOBLOLLY DECLINE (Cause Unknown)

MISSISSIPPI Several patches of loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) on the Homochitto Ranger District, Homochitto National Forest, are showing a declining condition in the crowns. Many of these trees are being picked up during aerial surveys for southern pine beetle. The trees have an overall reddish-brown appearance, but closer observation reveals that the needle bases are still green and the trees are still living.

NEEDLE CAST, Hypoderma lethale Dearn

AREA The brown discoloration of pine needles caused by the needle cast fungus H. lethale is abundant especially in the eastern two-thirds of the area. Has been noticed on pond, loblolly, shortleaf and pitch pines.

CONE RUST, Cronartium strobilinum (Arth.) Hedgc. & Hahn

FLORIDA

A light infection of cone rust was observed on longleaf pine on the Forbes Seed Production Area, Apalachicola National Forest, in Florida.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE, Ceratocystis ulmi (Bvism.) C. Moreau

GEORGIA

Dutch Elm disease was cultured from an elm located on Kennesaw Mountain National Monument near Marietta, in Cobb County, Georgia.

More detailed information can be obtained by writing to the Forest Insect and Disease Control Division Zone Offices listed below or to the Atlanta Office:

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